



HI-Q

THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

LARC- Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

VE3FW - LARC call sign - honours the memory of the Founding President - P. J. "Pat" O'Shea

LARC SENATE

Keith Fiske
Ray Forslund
Ray Greer
Dave Kimpton
Bill Klemacki
Bill Roberts

VE3JQ
VE3EDZ
VE3CH
VE3AVS
VE3AJ
VE3ARN

LARC EXECUTIVE 2001-2002

President:	Bob Hansen	VE3RVA 767-6924
Vice-Pres:	Mark Vaillant	VA3MVR 935-2205
Secretary:	Judy Artist	VA3EAP 345-2218
Treasurer:	Jan Sokoloski	VA3JRS 344-3222
Directors:	Ed Baumann	VE3SNW 622-1216
	Fred Lesnick	VE3FAL 577-0789
	Denise Magill	VA3NST 346-4614
	Andy Malcolm	VE3INI 345-1858
Past Pres:	Skip Wright	VE3BBS

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT MOUNT BALDY 147.06 (-600) FP
VE3TBR ST. JOSEPH'S 146.820 (-600) FP
VE3BGA HILLCREST H.S. 147.390 (+600)
VE3TBB UPSALA ONT. 145.470 (-600) FP
(linked to VE3YQT)

PREZ SEZ.....

The January meeting as well attended with an interesting presentation by Janice Sitarski of T. B. Comm Cellular Plus. Plans for the LARC Annual Dinner are well under way and I have received assurances that our guest speaker, an experienced mountain climber, will be present. He has many exciting experiences to share with us, so plan to be there. Tickets are already available from any of the LARC Executive **but only until FEB. 10th** (see box further in this issue of HI-Q).

At this time I would like to thank all the technical members of LARC that keep the repeaters and equipment on the air. A job especially well done was carried out by those who went up Mount Baldy to repair VE3YQT last month.

I hope to see all of you at the Dinner Meeting.
Rest assured I will have my thermometer with me again .

Your President
Bob VE3VA

<http://members.tripod.com/~transmitters/links.htm> links for FM kits, diagrams, antennas, etc. **VE3WRL**)

<http://electronicproducts.com/> the title sez it all (**VA3WRL**)

<http://www.bytemark.com/amidon/index.htm> Amidon Associates product catalog on-line (**VA3WRL**)

<http://www.jameco.com/> both new and out-of-production electronic parts (**VA3WRL**)

<http://www.mainelectronics.com/index.htm> electronics parts for consumer equipment (**VA3WRL**)

<http://www.icmaster.com/login.asp> source of IC information (**VA3WRL**)

<http://www.dl-qrp-ag.de> info on the new German Tramp-8 multiband QRP rig (**VE3FAL**)

<http://www.qrpproject.de> QRP projects and homebrew from Germany (**VE3FAL**)

And some sites submitted by Fred **VE3FAL**:

<http://www.antennex.com/Stones/st1200/closer.htm> another good antenna information site, books etc.

<http://www.QRPp-I.com/> a short URL with a lot of info for QRPers – books, products, etc.

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/traveller/map/> road maps North/Southern Ontario (**VE3EMI/INI**)

<http://www.members.sha.ca/ve6yp/CoaxTrap.html> (**VE3FAL**) self-explanatory site

<http://www.accesswave.ca/~leoadler/> (**VE3UA**) info and pix of Dartmouth ARC club house

<http://www.g3tpw.ukgateway.net/index.html> various multiband antennas, pix, etc (**VA3WRL**)

4 7 2 1 . 3

The above number is important because it is: ???

- (a) total height of all **VE3AJ**'s towers (in inches)
- (b) number of hours of shopping days until next Christmas
- (c) total kilometers **VE3WCW** put on his trike last year
- (d) number of points **VE3FAL/3** hopes to make this year at Field Day

A True Story???

Well now that Christmas is over, and if the bands are not open, why not spend some time reading a great new book with a bit of a ham radio thread woven into it? **Don Cochrane** has just published a book entitled '**Die Laughing**'. It's a collection of short stories while he was a Funeral Director here in Thunder Bay and Nipigon. While it may not seem to be connected to amateur radio, Don has graciously allowed us to print a short excerpt from his book below.

In case your history of the LARC is a little sketchy on this elderly Irish gentleman, we may call him Pat and his call was **VE3FW**. Yes, the founding president of our own club had a bit of an adventure that was apparently not recorded in the club chronicles. (Maybe Pat deliberately kept it out??? Ed.) I hope you enjoy reading this short excerpt as much as I did. I can personally recommend that you pick up a copy of this book. While reading it more than once, I laughed out loud, stopped to think and just generally enjoyed reading some of the history of the Lakehead that you don't normally hear about.

An excerpt from **Don Cochrane's "Die Laughing"**

"The organist was a very large woman and tended towards long flowing gowns. All in all she was an impressive sight and a talented entertainer. Behind the Funeral home was an older house owned by an elderly Irish gentleman. His passion was ham, or amateur radio. A visit to his radio room was very impressive, because he talked to other radio operators all over the world. On the top of his house was a very substantial radio tower.

After one funeral, she had complained that the organ was making strange sounds while she was playing. It was as if someone was talking inside but it was slight and garbled. We could think of nothing that would make the organ act in such a way. One day the Minister was in the middle of a funeral service. He had come to the part of the service that called for the second hymn. In preparation our organist had turned on the organ. It began to hum and then in a very clear and loud voice she heard the words, "Are you there? Are you there? Am I getting through to you?"

There was a piercing and blood-curdling scream. She leapt up from the organ, charged through the Chapel, and flew by the minister just as he was asking the people to rise and sing. With her gown flowing, her hair streaming, and still screaming, she rounded the corner and headed down the long hall to our office at the front of the funeral home. She was in full sail. Her considerable bulk was moving at an amazing speed and her continued screams echoed off the walls. She was convinced the organ had been possessed and was inhabited by aliens or was at least transmitting a message from God. She went straight out the front door while the other Funeral Director and I ran into the Chapel to see what had happened. The people in the Chapel were buzzing, the family was dumbfounded and the voice in the organ kept talking. It was picking up the radio transmissions from next door. The funeral continued without organ music and it took almost a month of talking and reassurances it would not happen again to get her back but she was really never really comfortable again. (Tks Bill **VE3XT**)

Hi Bill: (VE3XT)

Thank you for your email. You are correct it was Pat O'Shea who lived directly behind Blakes. He was a wonderful man and I was also involved with him, as a Scout leader, when we first took part in the in the Boy Scouts World Jamboree on the air. My oldest son caught the communication bug in Pat's radio room and Tom went on to work for the DOT

including a stint in Churchill and is now a Computer Engineer working at Microsoft Headquarters in Redmond Washington. We will leave the organist anonymous.

I would be both pleased and honoured to have you reprint that portion of the book that relates to your club . You may accept this as permission to reprint those portions you wish to use, from page 82 , 83 and 84, for your newsletter. I would be pleased to receive a copy. I have already received an email from my old scouting buddy Norm Bell (**VE3 XRC**) who mentioned an incident he knew of in a Port Arthur Church and a wedding. So we can now add your episode from St. Agnes. Once again thank you for your email and best wishes to all the members of the Club.

Don Cochrane

(Thanks Don for permission to reprint.....Ed)

IRLP NEWS

As of this date January 14, 2002 there are 307 nodes. We are back on 146.540 MHz . On Sunday January 13, 2002 the international net was held at 0100Z (20:00 local)
There were check in's from mostly North America. Local check in's were, myself **Brad VE3MXJ**, **Andrew VA3ASM**, **Clarence VE3WCW** and **Dan VE3DWP**.

The next net will be held on January 27, 2002 @ 1600Z (11:00 local) Check in on 146.540 with myself at H minus 30 minutes, I then check in with the Central Net Control at H minus 15 minutes. Also remember the Great Lakes Net every Wednesday evening at 0100Z(20:00 local) on reflector 1.

Thank you 73 de Brad **VE3MXJ** RNC

HELP! HELP! HELP!de VE3AJ

Bill is asking for readers' assistance in obtaining back issues of HI-Q for the following dates:

March and December 1997: January, February and March 1995; October 1994: January 1984

June 1983; May 1970; October 1963: October and November 1962, and March 1961.

If you have any of these please QSO Bill and I'm sure he'll be very pleased.

ARISS SCHOOL CONTACT..... (via ARRL Newsletter)

VO1S and NA1SS just completed a successful ARISS contact at 2001-12-12 19:31 UTC. This contact occurred during the 100th anniversary celebration of Marconi's first trans-Atlantic radio contact and was from Signal Hill. Contact was established at approximately 6:30 before the calculated LOS and was lost at about 2:30 before the calculated LOS. It is my guess that as the shuttle was attached to the ISS, that the contact duration time may have been decreased due to some blockage.

Ten students were able to have their question answered and contact was lost while waiting for a response to the eleventh student. These students were picked from approximately 1200 St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, 9th graders. They had participated in a crystal radio building contest celebrating Marconi's achievements. In the audience were approximately 125 kids and another 40 adults. There was also some video taken. The audio was also put out the web via a Live365 reflector provided by Paul Cassel **VE3SY**.

The question that seemed to get the most response from the audience was from Chris Mong, age 13, who asked "If you sneeze on the space station, does the force of the sneeze propel you backwards?" Frank said "...it can..." Graham Dillabough **VOIDZA** was the control op and Frank Culbertson did his normal outstanding job of being the contact on the ISS. Congrats to all and thank you ISS crew for letting ARISS be a part of a very hectic day.

Special thanks also goes to Marilyn Steinberg of the Canadian Space Agency for helping arrange the contact and to Dave Taylor of Park Canada who helped get things going at the Signal Hill National Historic Site. Congrats go to Graham's crew for fighting through high winds and some snow to put the antennas up. Winds on Tuesday were reported gusting to 110 kilometer per hour.

Once again, congrats to all! This contact represented the third Canadian ARISS contact.

73,
Charlie Sufana **AJ9N**
ARISS mentor for Newfoundland

Spark QSO Marks Marconi Transatlantic Centennial (from ARRL Newsletter)

The sound of a spark transmitter was heard once again on an amateur band to mark the centennial of Guglielmo Marconi's first transatlantic radio success. It was 100 years ago, on December 12, 1901, that Marconi—at his receiving station in Newfoundland—copied the three dits of the Morse letter "S" transmitted from 2000 miles away in Cornwall, England. An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact with students in Newfoundland also was successfully completed.

David Wilson, VE3BBN, near Niagara Falls, Ontario, built a low-power rotary spark transmitter and had permission from Industry Canada to use it December 12 from 9 to 10 PM Eastern Time (0200-0300 December 13 UTC). The operating frequency was approximately 3550 kHz. Wilson says the transmitter has a bandwidth of 20 kHz, and AM mode reception with a wide IF bandwidth works best. He transmitted "MARCONI S" every minute during the one-hour period. "This is a very low-powered transmitter with 10 W spread over 20 kHz (3-dB points) and having very broad skirts," he said. He said the spark signal is highly unlikely to interfere with normal amateur operations, but a test signal was copied at distances of at least 250 km (approximately 155 miles). Wilson used an 80-meter Windom antenna.

LARC ANNUAL DINNER SATURDAY FEB. 16

SLOVAK LEGION SOLARIUM

SYMPOSIUM 1800 HRS SUPPER 1845 HRS

TICKETS \$24 AVAILABLE FROM EXECUTIVE

ONLY UNTIL FEBRUARY 10TH CUTOFF DATE.

Good food, good friends, good grief don't miss it!!!

Ontario Section Newsletter from RAC

1. Radio Amateurs of Canada is very happy to report on a successful appeal from a **\$10,000 / year rental fee for space on a Hydro One (formerly Ontario Hydro) tower at Ft Francis.** We have been advised that similar properly documented applications from Ontario amateur radio clubs with an active public service program, **such as ARES groups,** will be considered favourably. The contact name is Ross G. Morley of First-World.net Communications, 9 The Kingsway, Toronto, ON M8X 2S9 Tel (416) 878 3388. First-World is the Hydro One subsidiary responsible for leasing tower space and maintaining the Hydro One towers across the province. Doug Leach - **VE3XK** Director - Ontario North, Radio Amateurs of Canada (Tks **VE3XRC** for forwarding this information. Just one more reason for being a RAC member, eh....Ed.

LARC AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES NOW IN SESSION!!!

THURSDAY EVENINGS 1930 HOURS ROOM 191

CONFEDERATION COLLEGE MCINTYRE BUILDING

5 WORDS-PER-MINUTE MORSE CODE FOR UPGRADING

Don't miss a single copy of HI-Q. Send your change of address notice to the Club.

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club History Project

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
held in Room 191, Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario
January 10, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by the President VE3RVA, Bob Hansen with 27 members and guests in attendance. Bob introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Janice Sitarski from T.B. Comm., Cellular Plus Centre. She gave a very interesting presentation on Awhat's new, the use and range of the cellular phone, followed by a question and answer session.

At 8:25 VE3RVA, Bob Hansen called the meeting back to order.

Minutes of the Meeting held on December 13, 2001: The minutes of meeting held on December 13, 2001 were published in detail in the December issue of AHi-Q@ and distributed to all members.

Motion: moved by VE3AVS, Dave Kimpton and seconded by VE3MPT, Manuel Migueis that the minutes be accepted as distributed. **Carried.**

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report: VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski

Balance as of November 30, 2001	\$ 3,165.70
Income:	
50/50	6.00
Bank Interest	.07
Correction - year end	155.97
DONATION	
- correction	-23.00
Membership dues	35.00
Vests	<u>75.00</u>
	<u>249.04</u>
Expenses:	
Hi-Q	119.67
Bank S/C	2.50
Membership RAC	39.95
Telephone	<u>40.37</u>
	<u>202.49</u>
Balance as of December 31, 2001	\$ 3,212.65

Motion: Moved by VA3EAP, Judy Artist and seconded by VE3DWP, Dan Darling that the Treasurer's Report be

accepted.

Carried.

Committee Reports:

Equipment: VA3LU, Terry Stewardson reported that YQT was shut off for a short time due to some noise problems, but it has since been fixed.

Classes: VE3SNW, Ed Baumann will be starting classes on January 17, 2002 in Room 191, Confederation College. Members are welcome to join in and bring any equipment they feel will be helpful to the group.

ARES: Please send any change of address or phone number to VA3GOT, Randy Gottfred so he can up-date the phone tree.

RAC, Ontario North: VE3XRC, Norm Bell read correspondence stating that RAC went to bat for the Rainy Lake Amateur Club for tower space.....Just to prove once again that RAC is working behind the scenes.

Public Service: VE3XRC, Norm Bell asked for volunteer operators for the Sibley Ski Tour to be held March 2nd, 2002, and received a full slate, (thank you folks).

Old Business: VE3RVA, Bob Hansen distributed copies of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Proposed Budget 2001-2002.

Motion: Moved by VA3LU, Terry Stewardson and seconded by VE3FAL, Fred Lesnick that the budget be accepted.

Carried.

Auditors: Treasurers books to be audited before the February Meeting.

February Dinner Meeting: Tickets for the February 16th Annual Dinner Meeting have been distributed to the members of the executive. Please see any one of these members for your ticket, come one, come all for a good meal, speaker and prizes !!!

New Business:

Antenna Season: whereas an email was sent to VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki from VE3XRC, Norm Bell, and whereas it is cold out and whereas there is a slight dusting of snow (you know, that white stuff), Bill Klemacki officially declared antenna season opened in his usual way, with a glorious blast of his trusty horn !

50/50 Draw: The winner of the 50/50 draw was VA3LU, Terry Stewardson.

Adjournment: Moved by VE3SNW, Ed Baumann that the meeting be adjourned.

(Photo courtesy Wayne Merk VE7CI)

